

Service Date: September 21, 1998

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF the Reduction of)	UTILITY DIVISION
Carrier Access Charges Pursuant to)	
The Commission's Final Order in Docket)	DOCKET NO. N98.9.212
No. D96.12.220.)	ORDER NO. 6100

NOTICE OF COMMISSION ACTION AND ORDER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) has issued a final order in In the Matter of the Application of U S WEST Communications, Inc. to Restructure its Prices for Regulated Telecommunications Service, Final Order, Docket No. D96.12.220, Order No. 5965c (Aug. 26, 1998). Order No. 5965c authorizes U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST) to implement rate increases and decreases for a number of regulated telecommunications services provided by U S WEST. U S WEST will implement these changes in two phases, the first of which is authorized as of September 10, 1998. The second phase will be implemented in 1999. Reduced carrier access rates are part of the 1999 phase of the restructuring order.

The 1997 Montana Legislature enacted Senate Bill 89, which is codified in sections of Title 69, chapter 3, part 8, Montana Code Annotated. Section 69-3-844(3), MCA, provides

Any reduction in telecommunications carrier access expenses because of the removal of implicit subsidies inherent in telecommunications carrier access rates must be passed through to Montana end-user customer retail rates.

The access charge reductions that are authorized by Order No. 5965c will remove a portion of the implicit subsidies that are inherent in access rates. When the reductions go into effect, all

carriers providing intrastate long distance in Montana must pass on the decreases in access charges and reduce retail rates to end-users.

THEREFORE, based on the foregoing, IT IS ORDERED that all telecommunications carriers providing intrastate long distance services in Montana shall flow through the carrier access charge reductions resulting from Order No. 5965c to their end-user retail rates.

DONE AND DATED this 16th day of September, 1998, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed with ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.